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MONTHLY NOTICES

OF THE

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Sir R. S. BALL, LL.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

John Franklin-Adams, Wimbledon ;
Rev. Sherrard Beaumont Burnaby, M.A., The Vicarage, Hampstead, N.W. ;
John Sisson Slater, M.A., LL.D., Seafield House, Lytham, and 1 Garden Court, Temple, E.C. ; and
Rev. John Spence, 27 Walpole Street, Chelsea, S.W.,

were balloted for and duly elected Fellows of the Society.

The following candidate was proposed for election as a Fellow of the Society, the name of the proposer from personal knowledge being appended :—

Professor Henry C. Lord, Director of the Emerson McMillin Observatory, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A. (proposed by George E. Hale).

Seventy-one presents were announced as having been received since the last meeting, including, amongst others—

H. Jacoby, Reduction of Stellar Photographs, &c., presented by Columbia College Observatory ; Meudon, Observatoire d'Astronomie Physique, Annales, tome i., presented by the Observatory ; S. Newcomb, Action of the Planets on the Moon, and Secular Variations of the Orbits of the Four Inner Planets,

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presented by the office of the *American Ephemeris*; W. J. S. Lockyer, Resultate aus Beobachtungen des veränderlichen Sternes η *Aquilæ*; W. Prinz, Esquisses Sélénologiques, presented by the authors; two MS. volumes containing original entries of Capt. Foster's pendulum observations, 1828–31, presented by the Hydrographer.

On some Original Unpublished Observations of the Comet of 1652.

By E. B. Knobel.

In a copy of the second edition of Bayer's *Uranometria* (Ulm, 1639), with which is bound the *Cœlum Stellatum Christianum* of Julius Schiller (Augsburg, 1627), which I have recently acquired, there are recorded several observations of the comet of 1652, and as they appear to be for the most part the original observations of the former owner of the work, they are perhaps worth saving from the obscurity in which they have been concealed since that period.

The comet of 1652 was very carefully observed by Hevelius, who devotes the whole of the first book of his "Cometographia" to an exhaustive discussion of his observations, and it was from these materials that the elements of the comet's orbit were subsequently computed by Halley, and published in his well-known "Synopsis," which appeared in the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1705.* Besides his own very important series, Hevelius mentions some observations made by Wendelinus at Tournai, Malvaticæus at Bologna, Christianus at Giessen in Hesse, and by an Englishman at Aleppo, but it is clear that neither of these can be the author of the observations I have discovered. It is probable, however, that the author is indicated in an inscription on the title-page of Bayer, in the same handwriting as that of the observations. This inscription gives an epitome of the title-page of the "Coelum Stellatum," and concludes with the sentence: "A. 1649 pro isto Coelo Stellato petebat D(ominus) Henri(cus) Milius ? nuper."

This author had evidently the open maps before him, on which he each night marked down the position of the comet by alignment with the stars, and he wrote on the maps particulars of such alignment with notes and remarks, as well as some observations made elsewhere by others.

Hevelius observed the comet from 1652 December 20 to 1653 January 8. Our unknown author gives the positions of the comet from December 19 to January 3, and there is a note which

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* In his "Constantes de l'Astronomie" (*Annales de l'Observatoire de Bruxelles*) Houzeau gives Halley's longitude of perihelion erroneously as 38° 10′ 40″; it should be 28° 10′ 40″.

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